

One of the rites of spring that close the academic year at Syracuse is the annual exhibition of work by senior photography students. There are several shows, including this year, for the first time, a senior photo show in the Schine Student Center's new Robert B. Menschel Photography Gallery. Some of the work appearing in these exhibitions appears on the following pages.

Picture Perfect

Photographs by senior students in two separate programs reveal different philosophies but a common concern for perfection. By Carol North Schmuckler

The photos represent two separate photography programs that exist at Syracuse University, one in the Newhouse School of Public Communications and the other in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA). As the photos demonstrate, the two programs are quite different in philosophy. The goal of the Newhouse program, says chairman Fred Demarest, is

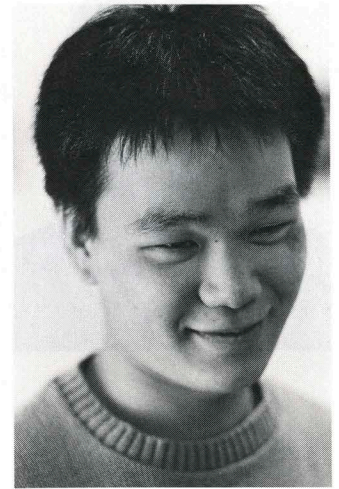
to train professional photographers for photojournalism, advertising, illustration, and corporate photography.

"We're in the business of communicating," Demarest asserts, "and although the work of our students' is good enough to hang on the wall, that is not its purpose. The photographs our students take are meant to be published."

The VPA program is oriented toward ideas and issues, with an emphasis on creativity, according to Lou Kreuger, chairman of the Art Media Studies Department that houses the program. The goal is self-expression.

"Our work is about something, and as often as not it contains a social or political statement," Kreuger says. "We ask our students to go beyond learning the techniques and to internalize, personalize, and reinvent the information we give them—to break new ground and come up with something fresh. We want to educate our students so they'll be able to adapt to a changing environment."

This past spring, a senior show in the Newhouse I lobby, a series of individual exhibitions coordinated by Art Media Studies, and the Menschel Gallery show in particular demonstrated the programs' differences and similarities. Together they comprise a senior class portfolio that is most intriguing.



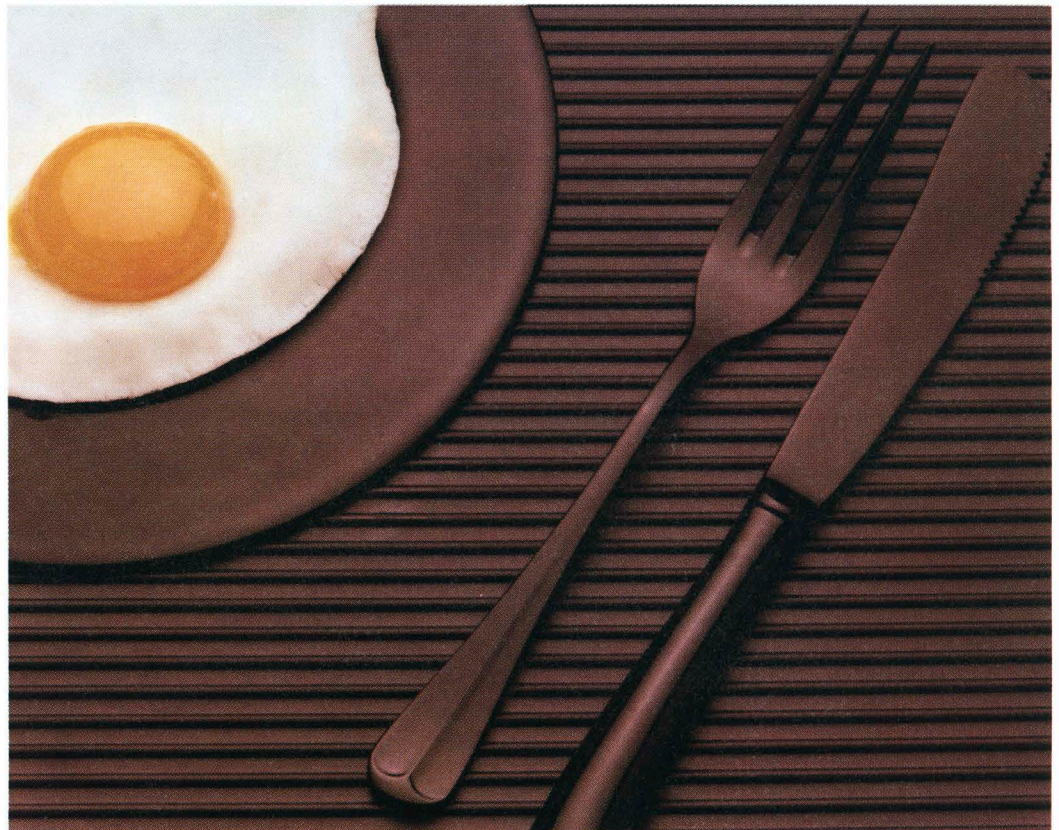
"I wanted to create a montage by first doing a simple image and then putting an emotional effect with it. This is a combination of four images that reminded me of the way humans treat their environment. We pollute and destroy, and maybe someday just the animals will be here with what we leave behind. We disappear but our history's still here."

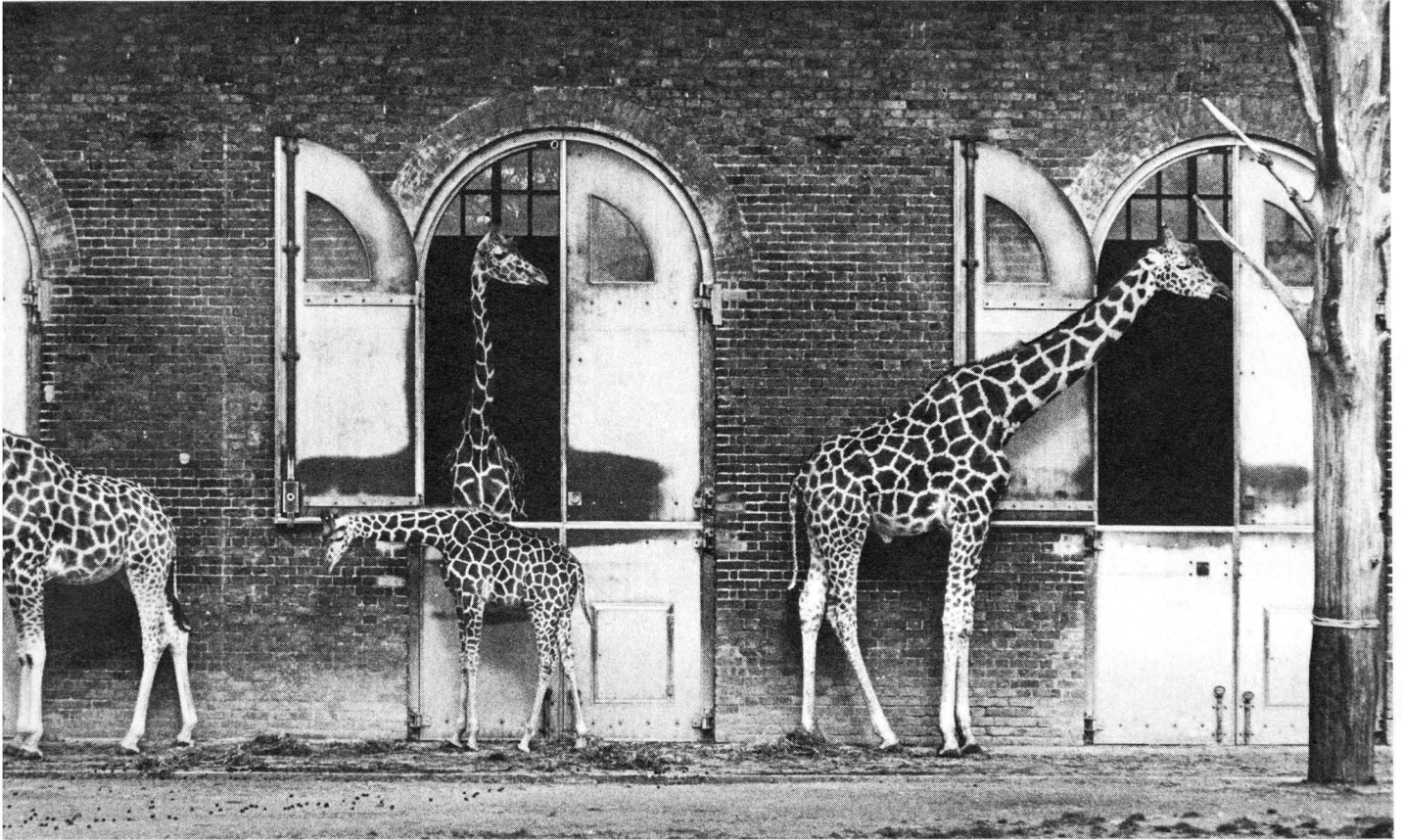
Raymond Chui
Visual and Performing Arts



“This was a very spur-of-the-moment picture. I was taking my roommate to the zoo in London because she’d never been there, and even before we got inside I saw the giraffes. Although I’m a photojournalism major, my work has a strong emphasis on pattern, design, shape, and texture. But it’s also important to have living things in the picture, because that’s what people zoom in on. People look at these living giraffes and see the pattern.”

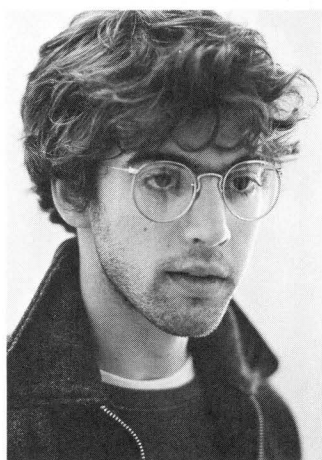
Celeste LaBrosse
Newhouse School





“My work is very planned out. I do a comp and ask people if they see what I see. I try to turn an idea into reality. I’m an illustration photographer so I prefer posing things. I want to know that if I need lighting with an early morning look, I don’t have to wait for it: I can go into the studio and create it. I don’t like capturing what’s going on at the moment. I can’t stick a camera in someone’s face at a critical time.”

Gary Cipinko
Newhouse School



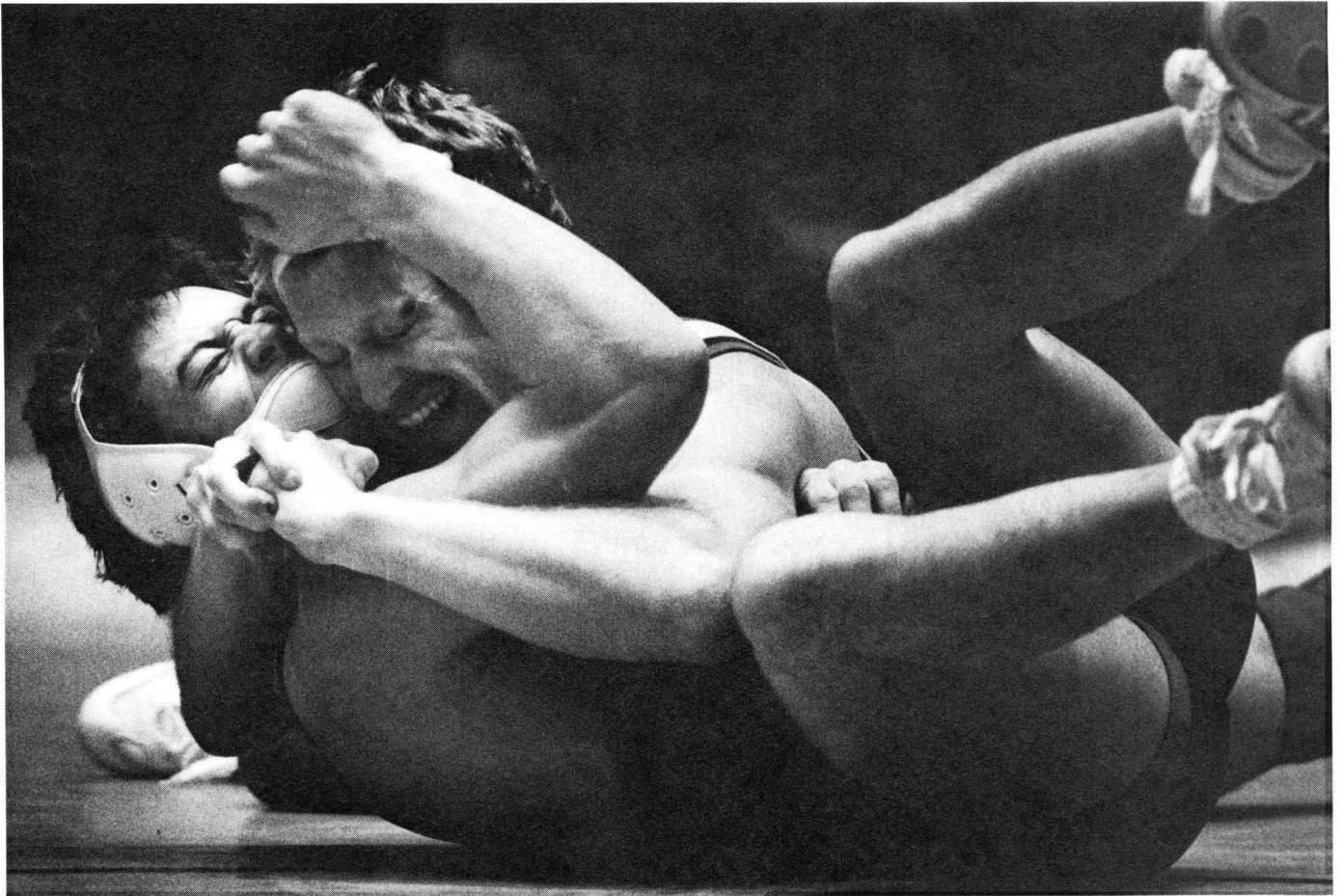
“I’m a people photographer. I think I have a neoclassical style. I’m not trying to be avant-garde or make statements. There are no big, complex ideas behind my work. I just want to take simple environmental portraits that are beautiful and interesting and graphic and that grab the viewer. In this case, I wanted to photograph my grandparents in their bedroom because that room symbolizes their union. This is more posed than my portraits usually are, but I didn’t tell them what to do with their hands or anything.”

Ken Lambert
Newhouse School



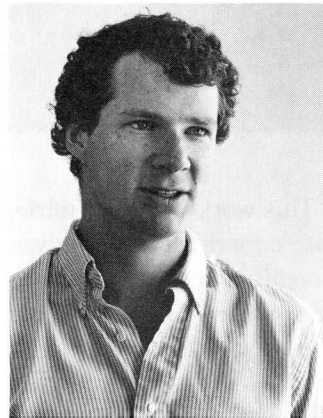
“This work was done during a period of self-exploration. I was experimenting with various facets of self and the personality makeup that makes us each unique. I took a look at how the male and female are perceived in society and how stereotypical behavior structures a person to the expectations of society. Stereotypes present a barrier to the individual, and that which is stereotypically masculine or feminine behavior limits personal expression. This work attempts to transcend the limitations of behavioral role-playing and the expectations of gender.”

Missy Austin
Visual and Performing Arts



“I like to shoot tight because it gives better expression. Longer lenses give better control of depth of field. Most of my work is single images—tight, clean, crisp stuff. This was an assignment from the *Daily Orange*. I waited for just the right expression.”

Dave Brauchli
Newhouse School





“This work deals with contradictory views of social attitudes and expectations. I’m also interested in people’s fantasies and dreams. What is reality? People often feel certain things and believe certain ways without thinking, just because they’re following the mainstream. I try to show another side of things so people will at least stop and think for themselves. I want viewers to bring the different relationships together themselves.”

Penny Wittenberg
Visual and Performing Arts



“This was a completely accidental photograph. I’d been shooting in Boston all day and was waiting for a friend to get an ice-cream cone. Suddenly I looked up and the six o’clock sky was this absolutely unbelievable color, and I knew I had to capture it. Of the five photos I snapped off, only this one had that particular blue. I like to travel to new places with my camera. My eyes are always open and I’m aware of everything around me. I notice very little things, especially color, and I love people surrounded by their environments.”

Natalie Ferbel
Visual and Performing Arts



“I was babysitting and had to change this baby. Since I wasn’t very experienced, I put her into the sink until I got everything ready. But when I looked at her, I ran to get my camera. At first I thought the picture was a scream, but then I started looking at it more closely. Now this photograph is horrifying to me because she’s helpless, absolutely helpless. It brought human relationships into focus for me and made me realize how vulnerable we all really are.”

Gerin Chapman
Visual and Performing
Arts